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37 C.F.R. § 1.8

LUD 5253.5 DIV (09885911)



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By Fani Malikouzakis

Fani Malikouzakis
(Signature)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Thierry BOON-FALLEUR et al.
Serial No. : 08/819,669
Filing Date : March 17, 1997
For : TUMOR REJECTION ANTIGEN PRECURSORS, TUMOR REJECTION ANTIGENS AND USES THEREOF
Art Unit : 1644
Examiner : Phillip GAMBEL

Attn.: Jasemine Chambers and Phillip Gambel
Director, Technology Center 1600
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL -
INVENTIONS RELATING TO HIV/AIDS AND CANCER
(37 C.F.R. § 1.102, 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(H); MPEP 708.02, MPEP 707.02)**

Sir:

Applicants hereby petition to make the above referenced application special, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.102. The fee required by this petition, as called for by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h), i.e., \$130.00, accompanies this petition. Please make appropriate adjustment by way of Deposit Account No. 500624, if necessary.

This application should be made special, for several reasons. First, pursuant to MPEP 707.02, this application has been acted upon more than three times. Second, also

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pursuant to MPEP 707.02, the application has been pending for more than 5 years, i.e., since March 17, 1997.

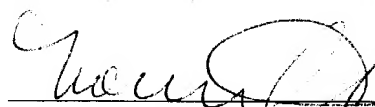
Further, pursuant to MPEP 708.02 (X), the invention claimed herein relates to cancer.

The claimed subject matter defines a family of "tumor rejection antigen precursors." As the specification explains, these molecules, i.e., the tumor rejection antigen precursors, are only expressed in cancer cells. Hence, they are diagnostic markers for cancer cells. Further, they are processed, intracellularly, to tumor rejection antigens. These molecules form complexes with MHC molecules and provoke the proliferation of cytolytic T lymphocytes. This action may serve as a diagnostic assay for cancer - i.e., the T cells are only present when cancer cells are present - and may also serve as a therapy for cancer - i.e., if the action occurs in vivo, the T cells lyse the cells presenting the tumor rejection antigen, which are cancer cells.

For all of the reasons provided supra, any of which by itself is believed sufficient, it is required that this Petition to Make Special be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI, L.L.P.



Norman D. Hanson, Esq.
Registration No. 30,946

666 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10103
(212) 318-3000
(212) 318-3400 (fax)